

REMARKS

This Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.116, in responsive to the final Office Action mailed February 19, 2008. Filed concurrently herewith is a request for extension for response within first month, a Request for Continued Examination and the requisite fees.

At the outset, the undersigned wishes to thank Exr. Siddiqi for both his time and courtesy during the recent telephone interview of May 22, 2008. As the Examiner will recall, the undersigned pointed out the differences between the claimed embodiments and the applied art with reference to Figs. 1, 2 and 6. The Examiner requested that the architecture shown in Fig. 6 be incorporated into the pending claims.

In the final Office Action, the pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Poplawski et al. (2003/0208441) (“Poplawski”).

Poplawski teaches that billing data is sent as bulk billing data 800 that contains all of the billing data 15 for a specified period of time. Thereafter, the CSP/BSP 20 generates emails that are sent to the payers 30 notifying them of an upcoming bill (See, e.g., paragraph [0030] and [0031]). Such obtrusive emails are the antithesis of the claimed embodiments, which define the framework for non-interrupting notifications, as is developed fully below.

The claimed embodiments call for:

filtering, by the notification application, the received notifications to identify those of the received notifications that require a decision from the user;

Contrary to that asserted in the Office Action, Poplawski does not teach any filtering, as the bulk billing data is not filtered, only parsed into separate emails for the payers, as the bulk billing data only contains billing data for the upcoming month. Moreover, each of the bills that

are sent out on the basis of the received bulk billing data 800 “requires a decision from the user,” as all bills are due and should be paid (although the user may decide to pay the bill or not (See paragraph [0043]). Nonetheless, there is no teaching or suggestion that the CSP/BSP 20 filters the bulk billing data 800 in any manner.

The claims also require:

providing a notification application running on the notification server, the notification application being configured to process the received notifications and enable user interaction with the processed notifications over the network via the user device;

There is no counterpart notification application or notification server in Poplawski. In this reference, the billing emails are sent directly from the CSP/BSP 20 to their intended recipients, the payers (the bill recipients). In direct contrast, the claimed embodiments call for a notification application that runs on the notification server. The notification application is recited to be configured to process the received notifications and enable user interaction with the processed notifications over the network, via a user device (e.g., a mobile device, laptop computer, and the like). Therefore, the claimed embodiments call for an additional layer between the notification sender (the plurality of computer processes) and the recipients of the notifications (See, for example, Fig. 6 of the present application). This additional layer is recited to include a notification server and a notification application running on the notification server. The notification application enables user interaction with the processed and filtered notification, via the user devices coupled to the notification server. Poplawski does not teach or suggest any such additional layer, nor the functionality thereof.

The amended claims then variously recite:

causing links to the identified notifications to be displayed on the user device, by the notification application;

receiving a user interaction from the coupled user device indicating a selection by the user of one of the displayed links to the identified notifications;

displaying, on the coupled user device, the received notification that corresponds to the selected link;

In Poplawski, the users receive emails containing the billing data and open the emails. In contrast, the claimed embodiments call for links to the identified notifications (i.e., those that were filtered and identified as requiring user action) to be displayed on the user device, whereupon a user interaction may be received by the notification server/application, indicating a selection by the user of one of the displayed links. The links to the filtered notifications are provided to the user, but it is the user that decides which, among the filtered notifications, to select in order to display the corresponding notification. It is only then that the received notification corresponding to the selected link is displayed to the user on his or her user device – in a non-interrupting fashion. Such is simply not taught or suggested by Poplawski.

The Office pointed to Poplawski's paragraphs [0028] to [0031] as allegedly teaching such steps. However, it should be noted that in Poplawski, the URL link discussed in paragraph [0029] is a web site for registering users, and is not a link to a received and filtered notification, as claimed herein. Likewise, the URL link in paragraph [0036] is a link to the biller's web site, and not to a received and filtered notification.

Thereafter, the claimed embodiments call for

requesting that the user make a decision relative to the displayed notification and sending the decision from the user device to the notification application over the network;

generating a reply to the displayed notification within the notification application according to the decision made by the user;

formatting the generated reply according to the computer process of the plurality of computer processes that issued the displayed notification, and

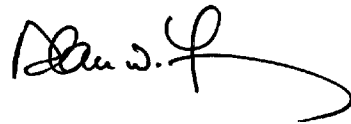
sending, over the network, the formatted reply from the notification application to the computer process that issued the displayed notification, without requiring the user to log onto the computer process that issued the displayed notification.

In contrast, Poplawski does not teach that replies to the billing emails are in any way configured to request that the user make a decision, generate a reply within a notification application, format the reply according to the computer process that issued the displayed notification or send a formatted reply back to the computer process without requiring the user to log onto the computer process that issued the displayed notification, as required herein.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above arguments, it is respectfully submitted that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are not tenable and should be withdrawn accordingly. The same is, therefore, respectfully requested.

It is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance. *In the event that there remains any questions relating to this application prior to first action following the Request for Continued Examination, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney of record by telephone to schedule a telephone interview prior to issuing a further Office Action.*

Respectfully submitted,



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